

can also become a weakness that blinds it to other truth. One example of someone who pointed beyond this was an early proponent of the American Restoration Movement, Alexander Campbell.

My friend, Bobby Valentine, shared this quote this week and it has blessed me.

"Hope never looks back. It never sees the present, nor the past. Hope ever lives in the future. Love never sees the true merely, nor the good merely; but it always sees the beautiful. Beauty is the true object of love. We believe the truth whether good or bad, we love the beautiful everywhere. We look with the eye of faith down the vista of futurity and hope for joys eternal - immutable." (AC, Familiar Lectures, p. 276)

Campbell's challenge to us is to look beyond what we see and know, to what could be in the future. We dare not allow our logic and reason to "bog us down" and rob us of our future. The challenge in Scripture is to look ahead, to see beyond. As the Hebrew writer describes those who "looked for a city whose builder and maker was God" (11:10) and Paul encourages us to remember that our bodies groan longing to be clothed with a home eternal in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1-2), faith begs us to look with an eye of faith on the future, not the present. We are to place our hope in that which defies logic, superseding it with the supernatural.

I have to confess that it is a challenge for me. I think one for you as well. But, as people of faith, this is what lies before us.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

*St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
St John, KS 67576*



**St John Church of Christ
A Family of God**

August 23, 2015

One of my frustrations with myself is all my training in logic. From high school logic classes, through a school of preaching that stressed a debate-style approach to the Scriptures, to the scientific method training of my undergraduate degree in Behavioral Science, then my advanced training in Neuroscience, there is this ever present emphasis on what you can logically "prove" right now.

As we consider transitions from pre-modernism (1650-1850s), to modernism (1850s-1950s), to post-modernism (1950s to present), there is a distinct approach to understanding and valuing life in each time period. Roots of the American Restoration Movement are strongly tied to modernism. As a result we place a high value on respecting the "text" and the use of logic to arrive at conclusions. There is a tendency to place a higher value on "knowledge" and a lesser value on "experience".

Each philosophical wave flows into the next, blending, conflicting, and eventually calming. I feel a great debt to those thinkers who laid foundations for our contemporary understanding of Scripture, God and Christian life. The strength of any system

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

ELDERS: Richard Brening, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brening

WORSHIP ORDER FOR AUGUST 23, 2015

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
 GATHERING SONG: No. 23—Our God, He Is Alive (vs 1)
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 (Orrin Feril)
 SONGS: No. 291—The Great Physician
 No. 290—Shine, Jesus, Shine
 No. 749—The Battle Belongs to the Lord
 No. 96—I Stand in Awe (audience to stand)
 PRAYER: Fred Johnson (audience remain standing)
 SONG: No. 324—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (vs 1, 4)
 COMMUNION: Jerry Kinnamon
 Chris Mansel
 Ben Sizemore
 Jeff Scott

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 406—Just a Closer Walk with Thee
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 940—Only a Step (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

WEDDING INVITATION!

You are invited to the wedding of **Cheyenne Scott and Adam Holmes** on October 10, 2015, at 5 pm at Jeff & Lory's farm. The reception will be at the VFW in Stafford afterward. See invitation posted for more information.



SHOWER INVITATION!

A wedding shower is planned for Cheyenne & Adam on Sunday, September 13th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS ON BABY GIRL!

Craig & Kari Smith are new grandparents of a baby girl, **Emma Claire**, born to Jace & Sarah Smith on August 14th at 10:13 pm in Kansas City! She weighed 7 lbs, 3.4 oz, and was 17½" long. If you would like to participate in a money tree for little Emma, please give your gift to Janet by next Sunday.



BABY SHOWER!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring **Trey & Amber Turner**, scheduled for Sunday, September 27th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are expecting a boy, due in early November. They are registered at Target, as well as BabiesRUs.



NEWS FROM CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Please read the recent letter from Ubaldo Cardona and see pictures he sent—these are posted on the bulletin board.

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY is in the making! If you want a new family picture, contact Janet as soon as possible.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Trent & Hannah Sallee (8/29)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Maggie Harris—knee surgery last week; doing well
Charlene Jimerson (Chet's youngest sister) - increased health concerns
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - moved to a rehab facility
Josh Oakley
Barbara Austin's sister, Joanna
Anissa Potter—improving
Janie Nagel (Fred Johnson's sister) - recent stroke
Sonny Langford (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer
Dan Hampton—health concerns
Gladys Hornbaker—health concerns
Mike Bookstore—health concerns
Sherri Holguin & baby (coworker of Joy)
Marion Alpers—stroke
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; cancer
Olen Munz – in assisting living in Great Bend
Jessica Keeton (one of Clint's former BB players) - cancer
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Cody Dick – cancer; undergoing treatments
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) chemo for brain tumor
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Brening (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

2015 SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

September 24-26: Adult Seminar with Jerry & Lynn Jones
 See information posted on bulletin board.